the Nation

Volume 2, No. 10 • April 28, 1995
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If only

If only, you can see what I see.
If only, you can see the beauty of my culture.
If only, you can try and understand what I am.
If only, you can try and learn what I am.
If only, you can believe what I believe in.
If only, you can believe that we are equal.
But, we are different from one another.
If only, you can feel sadness like I have from years past.
If only, you can loose something valuable.
If only, you can loose something useful.
If only, you can understand your sole purpose on our Mother Earth.
If only, you can understand that you should live with RESPECT to our Mother Earth.
It's only then that we can walk in peace, harmony and understanding of one another.

by Sam - the Cree Nation

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Winneway Elder Isaac Hunter, father of Chief Jimmy Hunter. Photographer: Neil Diamond.

April 28, 1995

INDIAN TIME A WORN-OUT EXCUSE

It's 11 a.m. in Anywhere, Indian Country. The meeting was supposed to have started two hours ago. Half of the people expected haven't even bothered to show up yet. Someone titters nervously about "being on Indian Time again, I guess."

Nobody laughs. Jokes about Indian Time are wearing thin. An annoyed band administrator and two Tribal Council types announce "they have more important things to do with their time"—and leave for appointments elsewhere.

So what exactly is Indian Time?

According to romantics, it's a natural time, the Creator's time, a spiritual time in tune with the ancient rhythms of Mother Earth—and in perfect synchronization with harmonies of the Universe...

Opponents dismiss it as bullshit, our very limited time and meager resources wasted again, a lackadaisical inability to maintain a simple timetable, an appalling disrespect for the schedules of others, thinly disguised as some kind of noble cultural trait.

Does "accountability to the people" refer only to the cash box in Indian Country or can it include the use—or abuse—of time as well? Is there a balance, somewhere between living life by the clock and being "out to lunch" when you should be hard at work?

Speaking of waste, how about some of these big "Chieves" (one of them actually pluralizes the noun "Chief" in this manner) getting flown into Toronto, Winnipeg or Vancouver for yet another two or three-day "high-level meeting."

Since everybody is on Indian Time the majority arrive late. Agendas are often hours or even days behind. Often the agenda is abandoned and a new one made up on the spot, to the dismay of organizers who may have worked months to set the bash up.

The meeting is opened by a "highly respected Elder" who is dragged in to say the opening prayer in some obscure dialect few understand. He or she is then shuffled off into Elder limbo, to await the closing prayer. This is one way Indian Country demonstrates its great "respeck" for its Elders.

Some Chiefs don't utter a single word during the entire meeting, other than gossiping. Others, mesmerized by the sound of their own voices, can't be shut up. Speakers are often drowned out by tables of delegates more at home in a bingo hall than they are at national meetings. Frequently the chair has to ask for "some silence and a little respect." Rarely do they get it.

National, provincial or regional visions, if there are any, are discarded in favour of individual Chiefs grabbing the opportunity to whine about their own individual community problems. Every little coffee or lunch break becomes a major task for organizers to get delegates back into their chairs.

Around the second last day, when important resolutions are being put together and votes are required, the Chiefs start vanishing, leaving to catch a plane, get in a few rounds of golf, head for the mall, or to do some heavy decision-making at the local casino.

A good time was had by all—except for the "grassroots people" back home. Do the people deserve more from their so-called "leadership," or do they deserve exactly what they accept?

Gilbert Oskaboose is a 53-year-old Ojibway from the Serpent River First Nation in Ontario. He is a retired journalist and former communications director for the North Shore Tribal Council.

by Gilbert Oskaboose

the Nation

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HUGE DIAMOND FIND NEAR ATTAWAPISKAT

The discovery of 370 diamonds in Mushkegowuk by a mining company has Attawapiskat abuzz about the possibility of a mine being established nearby.

At one site, KWG Resources Inc. drilled through ice into Kyle Lake about 100 miles from Attawapiskat, and found 230 diamonds.

"The figures released say it's a good prospect. But it'll probably take another several years before we are sure enough," said Don Fadyen, director of KWG and consultant responsible for geophysical operations.

Fadyen added that further exploration is needed to see the feasibility of spending more money on the project and how rich the deposits are before a mine is established.

KWG and its subsidary Spider Resources Inc. are responsible for the exploration portion of a joint venture with Ashton Mining of Canada Ltd. Ashton is responsible for the testing and evaluation of core and other samples.

The three companies have already spent $3.3 million during three years of exploration in northern Ontario.

Chief Ignace Gull of the Attawapiskat First Nation said his community wants to work with the company, but added, "the final say will come from the people of Attawapiskat."

Said Gull, "We're trying to have some sort of understanding with the companies that our First Nation wants to have a say in it, with consultation."

In response to the mining exploration, Attawapiskat established a Mining Issues Committee to look into issues of mining and keep track of what's been going on with the exploration.

"We've had good communication with the mining companies," said Reg Louttit, the committee's chair.

by Paul M. Rickard

As part of the committee's consultation with the companies, they have visited the site of the drilling and have had some local people working and providing services at the drilling sites.

Louttit said part of the committee's work also includes working with the mining companies regarding the possible disturbance of burial grounds and traditional activities by First Nations. The committee will also be gathering information and may visit other companies to see the effects of mining in other Native communities.

The Chief and committee hope this project will bring economic benefits to the community if a mine is ever established.

"The key thing is that the First Nation should take advantage of any mining in our territory," said Chief Gull. "A lot of times when we want to build this community, we look at government funding. We should start to look at revenue-sharing in land resources."

As an example, Chief Gull pointed to the fact that since the exploration began three years ago, local people have gotten some seasonal employment.

Fadyen said he doesn't anticipate "an unusual level of difficulty" with Native peoples. "Their concerns are listened to, and we're taking a careful and conservative position on the whole thing," he said.

Fadyen stressed that the Attawapiskat First Nation was informed of activities from the beginning and continues to be informed.

The three companies involved have a block of about 1,000 mining claims comprising 541,000 acres in the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation territory.

CBC NORTH BRACES FOR CUTS

by Alex Roslin

Staff at CBC North are bracing for a possible 25-per-cent cut to their funding. There is even worried speculation that the meagerly funded northern service could be eliminated entirely as the CBC goes through a sweeping overhaul.

In the latest Liberal budget, $44 million was cut from CBC's $1-billion budget. That came on top of years of budget gouging by the previous Tory government.

This year, every department including CBC North was told to cut 4 to 5 per cent of its budget. In the following two years, another 11 per cent will be cut.

But that may not be the end of it, according to Marie Wilson, regional director at CBC North's head office in Yellowknife. "We've all been asked to work up 25-per-cent (cutback) scenarios," she said. "We don't have any indication yet as to how that might go."

Privately, some staff at the northern service worry that CBC North may even be eliminated entirely in the frenzy of spending cuts. Compared to other regions, CBC North is already lean, which means the cuts will come down harder than elsewhere, say staffers.

CBC North employs about 150 people across the north and in its Montreal office. If 25-per-cent of its budget is slashed, at least 40 to 50 people could be laid off, said Wilson. Other drastic changes will be made as well, including cuts to programming hours, smaller travel budgets for journalists hoping to get out to northern communities and more reruns.

It won't be clear before next fall if the 25-per-cent cuts will actually be implemented. A final decision will be made after several ongoing reviews of CBC's mandate and operations are released this summer.

"We are a bit in the dark," says Suzanne Aubin, area manager for CBC North-Quebec.

"We are waiting and hoping we won't be hit as hard as other departments."

Aubin said the funding cuts mean CBC North's Quebec operation won't have the money to move to a northern community for the forseeable future, an idea that's been tossed around for years.

Land is our classroom

Letter to *The Nation*:

I am writing in regards to the article on Robert Kanatewat's views of the Great Whale River Project. I do not have anything against him personally, but I do not at all agree with him saying to dam up the Great Whale River for the sake of jobs.

Just as the people of Great Whale were a bit at ease over the concerns of their river being destroyed, this thing comes up. They have been fighting this battle for the past five years or so. Will they ever be at peace?

Sure our people need jobs but damming up rivers and destroying the land is no way to go about it. The Land is the classroom for Indian people. If you destroy your classroom you won't have a place to learn.

John Longchap, Mistissini

Crees will be Crees!

Letter to *The Nation*:

I want to congratulate you and your team for all the efforts you put in this first Cree magazine. I really enjoy reading your articles, they are very interesting. The main purpose of this letter was to let you know that when I receive your magazine, I always hurry to the back to see who will appear in your classifieds! The strange thing is that I've mentioned it to my family and friends and they all agree with me, they are as nosy as I am!! I guess we will never change, Crees will be Crees!!

Keep up the good work!!

Cree student in Ottawa
(Anonymous by request)

Suicide not only way out

Letter to *The Nation*:

To the Native Youths,

Hi! My name is Arlene Mianscum. I'm 14 years old and in Secondary 2. I go to school in North Bay, Ontario and will be attending high school this fall. My parents were always there to encourage me to have good grades in school and to reach for my goals. In the future I would like to be a pediatrician or a doctor, but I am the only one to reach for this goal of mine.

In this letter I will talk to you about suicide. Many times when I'm in my room I would start crying as I stare at a picture of my cousin. I would ask why had she done this to herself, but it would never be answered. My cousin had died through suicide on September 4, 1993 and it has been one year and a half since she had left us. I saw how hurt her family was and her best friend.

Melissa had done a very serious thing here and the only thing she left us was a big scar on our hearts. As I had said suicide is a serious thing, you won't be only hurting herself, but your family too!

If a reader who is suicidal is reading this, you should seek help right away from a friend, a parent, a counsellor, anybody who will be willing to help you. I admit that myself I was suicidal because of boredom, my problems I had and because I thought it was the only way out of my problems, but I was wrong. I sought help from a school counsellor and she has helped me a lot! She helped me through my depression of a lost loved one and my problems.

There are many people who love you a lot willing to give you a hand and take that hand he's offering you.

Arlene Mianscum

A call for change

Letter to *The Nation*:

Thank you for publishing the 1994 Year in Review (*Nation*, Vol. II, No. 3, January 20). It was inspiring to read about the Cree Nation's accomplishments.

I would like to comment, however, on the March statement: "Tufts University sells HQ bonds." After a three-and-a-half-year campaign by students, faculty and alumni, the Tufts board of trustees voted unanimously to divest. In July 1994, Williams College, also in Massachusetts, divested its holdings in HQ bonds.

Divestiture is a financial action that is undertaken for social or moral reasons. Instead of merely selling its holdings, the investor deliberately chooses divestiture. It sends a potent message that the investor (an individual, a retirement fund or an institution) disagrees with corporate policies that, for example, harm the environment or are major human rights abuses. Divestiture is a call for change.

Divestment and testimony are two of the "tools" available to change public policy. Another is the Cree people's willingness to educate the people who live at the other end of the Radisson line.

Anne Stewart,
New England lobbyist for the
Grand Council of the Crees

Union by-laws respected

Letter to *The Nation*:

The president of the AENQ union has asked for the following information to be printed in response to the article "Teachers' lawsuit thrown out" in the March 17 issue.

Mme Dominique Baillargeon is the union delegate at Voyageur Memorial School in Mistissini, and in conformity with our by-laws is therefore automatically a delegate to the AENQ's Congress.

M. Robert Briand and Mme Marguerite Briand are teachers in Mistissini and completed the Cree Sector teachers' delegation.

The delegation of teachers from Mistissini respected our by-laws, which do not make provision for delegation by linguistic sector.

All members of the AENQ may propose changes to the by-laws by following the procedures indicated in Article 21 of those by-laws.

Ginette Savard
President, Association de
l'enseignement du Nouveau-Quebec

Evening of discovery in Mistissini

It is not very often that teachers, youth, parents and other members of a community have the occasion to assemble under one roof to celebrate an evening of thanks, hope and entertainment.

But thanks to organizers who wisely combined two of Mistissini's yearly events—its Teacher Appreciation Night and Public Speaking Contest—into a single program that also included dancing and singing, March 22 was a memorable exception.

Chief William Mianscum began the evening with a brief speech. In his opening remarks, he said the community realizes the teachers' mandate in the community isn't an easy one and that Mistissini greatly appreciates the amount of determination and dedication that the teachers have shown towards achieving it. His message was one of understanding, hope and encouragement.

Soon to follow was the opening prayer by teacher Isaac Mianscum. Afterwards, teachers were treated to a delicious roast beef dinner and later asked to come up to receive special gift presentations.

"The meal was excellent and so was the entertainment," said teacher Terry Whelan. "No matter where you are, it's always nice now and then to receive a pat on the back for the work you do."

Next on the evening's program was the public speaking contest. Master of ceremonies Ashley Iseroff got things started by introducing this year's participants: Judy and Louise Coon Come, John Matoush, Twyla Happyjack, Billy Blacksmith, Peter Jolly and Richard Shecapio—all students from Voyageur Memorial High School.

The students spoke about important issues facing today's youth—violence, suicide, education and religion. Each participant spoke with clarity, confidence and purpose. Their impressive presentations made it difficult for judges to select a winner, but after much deliberation one was announced—Billy Blacksmith for his speech on suicide among Aboriginal youth.

The community of Mistissini would like to congratulate all the students who participated in this event. These brave speakers not only succeeded in helping the community become more aware of the concerns of today's youth, but also of the talent and potential that exist among the student body at Voyageur Memorial.

And, just as important, teachers were given the opportunity to see the fruit of their labour. Said principal George Blacksmith, "The public speaking contest showed the teachers the positive aspect of their work through fine presentations made by the students."

In the end, this single evening proved to be one of discovery for everyone present. Teachers discovered that they are valued in the community and that their work is having a positive impact on their students. Students discovered that yes, they do have the courage and ability to speak out and be heard. And the community as a whole discovered that there are many among it who are committed to building a better future for future generations.

A special thank-you goes out to Ashley Iseroff, the Mistissini Neoskweskau Youth Dancers, dancer Winnie Trapper, singer Naaman Shecapio and all those who prepared and served the evening's food and refreshments.

by Robert Rutkowski

OJ Peacekeepers sworn in

In a historic ceremony, three Peacekeepers were officially sworn in at Ouje-Bougoumou in the presence of Cree, Quebec and federal officials on April 7.

After a traditional meal at the cultural village and a prayer by Elder Albert Mianscum, the guests were greeted by Sam R. Bosum, deputy chief. Addresses were given by Deputy Grand Chief Kenny Blacksmith and Quebec Public Security Minister Serge Menard.

Finally, the three Peacekeepers—George Gunner, Dave Bergeron and Gilles Lapointe—were sworn in by Deputy Chief Bosum and a representative of the federal government.

The ceremonies ended with a ribbon-cutting at the Peacekeeper and firefighter station, and a tour of the village.

—Nation staff

Stand-off in Attawapiskat

A man is in custody following an armed standoff at the Attawapiskat First Nation on April 4.

The Ontario Provincial Police, at the request of the Nishnawbe Aski Police, assisted in a situation involving an armed, barricaded person in a dwelling on the reserve.

The Barrie Tactical and Rescue Unit was dispatched to the scene and negotiations began. Early April 4 following an altercation, the barricaded person was wounded in the chest. The wound is not considered life-threatening, said the OPP.

Joseph H. Spence, 19, of Attawapiskat was taken to the Moose Factory Weeneebayko Hospital following the termination of the incident and was under police guard.

Following the incident the provincial Special Investigation Unit was notified and two investigators from Toronto began their investigation. The investigators met with NAN police and the OPP to determine the circumstances of the standoff.

—Nation staff

Chief decries double-standard

Chief Ed Metatawabin of Fort Albany says Canada practices "institutional racism" when dealing with Native people and things have to change.

The comments came after the band's

briefs continued on page 9

SPACE and LIGHT

EXHIBITION and PAINTING CONTEST

Theme: *an atmosphere*

June 9 - June 11, 1995

Produced by TOURISME MATAGAMI

ELIGIBILITY

1. Amateur and professional artist, 18 years and over, residing in the Nord-du-Quebec or Abitibi-Temiscamingue regions.

2. Paintings of all styles shall be accepted but the theme, "AN ATMOSPHERE" must be respected.

3. Size of Paintings:
from 11" x 13" (including frame)
to 24" x 30" (including frame)

4. One painting per artist dated 1994 or 1995.

DEADLINE

1. Registration:
by May 14, 1995

2. Tourisme Matagami will make pickup of paintings.

3. Participants will be notified of pickup points.

JURY

1. Jury will consist of three (3) persons from the cultural circle whose identity will remain secret until the prizegiving ceremony.

2. Jury's decisions are final and irrevocable.

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1. $20 for all categories, non refundable.

2. Cheques must be made out to the order of Tourisme Matagami and sent to:
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P.O. Box 160, Matagami
Quebec J0Y 2A0

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1. Professional:
1st prize: $1,000
2nd prize: $ 800
3rd prize: $ 600

2. Amateur:
1st prize: $ 500
2nd prize: $ 400
3rd prize: $ 300

3. Nord-du-Quebec:
professional: $ 1,000
amateur: $ 300
(restricted to artists of Nord-du-Quebec)

4. Public prize: $100

EXHIBITION

1. Opening hours:
Fri., June 9: 2 pm - 4 pm
7 pm - 10 pm
Sat., June 10: 1 pm - 10 pm

2. Prizegiving Ceremony:
Sunday, June 11 1 pm to 3 pm
PLACE:
Civic Centre
30 Cavelier St.
Matagami (Quebec)

3. The price of paintings will be determined by the artists.

4. Artist or their respresentative must pick up painting from 3 pm on, on Sunday, June 11.

FOR INFORMATION:
tel.: 819.739.4076
fax: 819.739.4278

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARTICIPANT (block letters)

Return with cheque

Name: _____ Category: __ Professional __ Amateur

Address: _____

City: _____ I certify that the painting is an original artwork and not a copy of an existing work.

Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____ Date: _____

Tel.: _____ Signature _____

CALEDONIA MINING CORPORATION

Caledonia believes that developing the mineral potential of its properties can not be done alone, but must be a cooperative effort that is to benefit all those concerned, especially the local communities.

In the Northwest Territories, Caledonia pursued this policy by basing its exploration activities out of the town Coppermine in favour of setting up field camps closer to the exploration properties. In addition, the Corporation contracted most of the services it required from local businesses and employed as many as 40 aboriginal people from the community. Special thanks are extended to Mayor Bill Adamac, John Franklin, Kerry Horn, Larry Whittaker and Randy and Jaco of Mujlco Ltd.

Caledonia is now operating in the James Bay lowlands of Ontario and Quebec and has opened communications with Chief Billy Diamond of Waskaganish. If Caledonia continues to develop its James Bay properties, then it will certainly continue to cooperate with and employ aboriginal peoples and local contractors to assist in its exploration activities.

For any further questions, please contact Warren MacLeod at (905) 564-5213.

CALEDONIA

continued from page 7

bank accounts were frozen for five days by a company which was owed money by the band. The band wasn't able to do business as a result.

On April 6, M.J. LaBelle Co. Ltd. enforced a garnishment against the band for outstanding bills that total $60,000. The debt dates to last year, when LaBelle sold equipment to Fort Albany's leasing company, Neegan O'Chee.

"We were in debit for five days and couln't order, receive cheques, pay purchase orders or people on welfare, and the band's employees," said Chief Metatawabin.

The Chief said there is no argument about the money owned; it's just there was no money to pay at the moment. But what Chief Metatawabin is angry about is that a company like LaBelle can hold a community "hostage," whereas in the south such a thing would never happen.

"It's their system and they control it and know it and use it against First Nations, and we got attacked," said Chief Metatawabin.

The Chief added that people in Fort Albany were affected who had no knowledge of what was happening with the company. He added that companies like LeBelle shouldn't be allowed to have the control to shut down a community.

For five days, people in the community weren't able to cash any cheques because Northern Stores would not accept them and all transactions were terminated.

"Indian Affairs has a say in what we do, and companies and banks are allowed to treat us that way," said the Chief.

The band hopes to get a loan from Nishnawbe Development Fund to pay the bill, and the Bank of Nova Scotia eventually unfroze the band's account. Neither LaBelle nor the Bank of Nova Scotia could be reached for comment.

—Paul M. Rickard

Scandal at Eagle River

The Bloc Quebecois has uncovered a strange scandal that is embarassing the Defense Department.

At a cost of $2.6 million to taxpayers, 20 generals flew off on two eight-week-long fishing vacations to Eagle River, a salmon fishing camp set up by the military on Innu land 175 km north of Goose Bay. Four of the generals were actually retired at the time of the trips, which took place in 1992 and 1993.

The generals were flown to their

holidays by military helicopter and airplane, some from as far away as Colorado Springs. Forty other officers also flew to Eagle River to attend to the needs of the vacationing generals.

Defense Minister David Collenette assured the Bloc in the House of Commons that the Eagle River camp was closed two years ago.

Not so, according to Daniel Ashini of the Innu Nation. "The last I heard, the camp is still there. They still go there."

Not only that, said Ashini, but there are at least two military fishing camps and possibly three in the vicinity—not just the one the Bloc discovered.

Ashini said the camps have all manner of fancy buildings—"the fanciest buildings in Labrador!" Plus, permission to set up the camps was never sought from Innu officials or trappers in the affected traplines. "I'm sure there are environmental impacts, but there's never been any study," Ashini said. "The people are totally angered by these camps."

—Alex Roslin

Savard re-elected AENQ prez

Ginette Savard was re-elected president of the 1,200-member Association de l'enseignement du Nouveau-Quebec at its congress in Chisasibi at the end of March.

With 85 delegates present at the congress, Savard got 43 votes, Mistissini teacher Robert Briand garnered 26 and Puvirnituq teacher Robert Harvy had 12. Briand is one of the two Mistissini teachers who unsuccessfully sued a fellow teacher over accusations of discrimination against Cree union members. The suit was recently thrown out of court.

Kathy Shecapio, an administrative technician at the Cree School Board in Mistissini, was re-elected as vice-president without any contenders.

Savard said the union is now gearing up for contract talks with the Kativik and Cree school boards. Executives are consulting members on how to approach the talks. Contracts in both school boards expire at the end of June.

"I don't think it will be tough," Savard said of the bargaining. "At least I hope not."

—Nation staff

Irwin apologizes... almost

Canada isn't exactly apologizing to the High Arctic exiles—at least not yet.

But Indian Affairs Minister Ron Irwin has given the clearest indication so far that Ottawa is sorry about the forcible relocation of 18 Inuit families to the Far North in the 1950s. And Canada is ready to compensate them.

"He thinks it was a bad decision," said Cate McCready, Irwin's communications assistant. "He's sorry people were so badly displaced. That's his personal view. He was concerned that people had gone through such a traumatic experience."

Irwin made a carefully worded statement that avoided offering an official apology while at Makivik Corp.'s annual general meeting in Kangiqsujuaq in late March. He called for a "fair resolution to the long-standing grievances."

But McCready emphasized that Canada hasn't officially said it's sorry. "No, we've made no formal apology," she said, adding that a compensation package first has to be approved by cabinet. She would not say when that might be.

—Alex Roslin

TAKING BACK THE POWER WINNEWAY-STYLE

by Alex Roslin
WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY WILLIAM NICHOLLS

AT THE END of a winding, gravel road half-way between Val d'Or and Temiscaming is a little Algonquin community, Winneway. It sits right on the Winneway River, and 100 yards upstream you can see the Winneway hydro-electric dam.

The Long Point First Nation has had its share of run-ins with hydro-projects over the years. The band gets its name from the original site where the band had its home, Long Point, 30 miles west of the present location of Winneway. In 1912, a hydro-electric project flooded the site.

The people had to move. But the move was not without glitches. The old graveyard at Long Point had to be moved too because of the flooding. "I don't think they did a very good job," says Elder Walter Polson. "Sometimes you see coffins there sticking out of the ground."

Again in 1936, some trappers from the band were forced off their lands near Rapid-7 by another hydro-development.

Winneway now wants to take back control over its future by buying another hydro-dam 100 yards up-river. Its five-year campaign to buy this dam is an incredible tale of struggle against indifferent and sometimes devious Quebec politicians, British bankers and a Montreal developer suspected of money-laundering in the U.S.

Winneway wants to buy a small, 2.4-megawatt dam built in 1938 so it can sell the power to Hydro-Quebec. The community of 500 believes the dam, if managed properly, could bring in $415,000 in annual profit by the year 2000.

NEIL DIAMOND

Water seeps from holes in a tube carrying water from the Winneway dam reservoir to the generating station. The band claims the current owner is mismanaging the dam. The dam overflowed twice last year.

Band officials say the cash could go a long way to easing the serious housing crisis plaguing this community where nearly half the band members live off-reserve due to lack of housing. The extra income could also help out Winneway's 62-per-cent unemployment rate, a problem that's getting worse since half the band's members are aged under 20.

For Chief Jimmy Hunter, the battle to get the dam has a certain irony. "Both my grandparents on both sides were flooded out, and here I am trying to get into the power business," he muses. Chief Hunter's grandparents on one side used to live at Long Point. The other side of his family used to live at Rapid-7.

PHOTOS BY NEIL DIAMOND

View from the top of the Winneway dam. Winneway's Catholic Church is visible in the background.

The floodings caused many band members to abandon their hunting and trapping way of life. Now, the community wants to turn things around, said Chief Hunter. "In the last 10 years, people were getting fed up with being on welfare. They want jobs."

But so far, no luck with the government. The community has yet to be recognized as a reserve and therefore doesn't qualify for much federal support. And Winneway's attempt to buy the dam is getting little support in Quebec, despite assurances from the PQ government that Natives would have a share in resource

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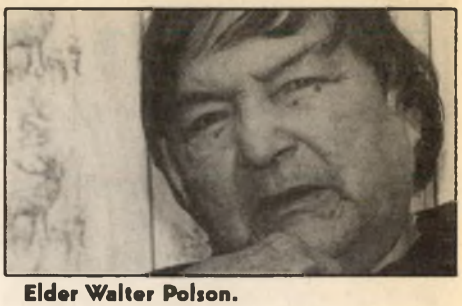
Ordeal at the Winneway dam



Elder Walter Polson.

WHEN THE Winneway dam was built in 1938, Walter Polson was 20 or 21. He is one of the few Elders still alive in Winneway who worked on the dam in those days.

On and off for six-and-a-half years, Walter worked at various gruelling jobs earning 30 cents an hour, 10 hours a day. "Was it hard work?" we asked Walter in his living room as he rocked in his chair.

"Oh, that's for sure," he said laughing.

He spent days on end breaking rocks and loading them into a bucket. Later, he would travel by canoe or snowshoes to each of the half-dozen reservoir dams upstream from the main reservoir, making sure everything was in order. "We travelled from dam to dam and in the spring-time we opened them all and in the fall we closed them," said Walter, who is now 78.

By snowshoe, the trip took four or five days. "There was no ski-doos those days."

Walter finally left his job at the dam under trying circumstances. "The last time I worked there I came in the fall and asked for a job," he remembered.

"Someone quit and I took his place. One day the boss came to see me and he said, 'You're going to Trout Lake tomorrow.'

"I had two kids. 'You know what?' I said. 'My kids are sick. They have the measles.' He fired me. That was in January.

"So now what am I going to do?" Walter asked himself. "Sand Point was where I was brought up. I had a long tobbogan. I had a tent. I tore it up for tarp and I wrapped up my stuff and the kids. My wife was running after the tobbogan.

"We got to Laforce by supper-time. We stopped by a farmhouse. They had everything on for supper already and invited us in. We had a pretty good meal there. We got to Moffet at 9 p.m. where there was a boarding house."

A room was available. Walter put his three dogs in the stable. The ordeal finally came to an end the next day after the family crossed Lac-des-Quinzes and arrived at Sand Point, where rations could be procured.

Just last summer, Walter went back to Sand Point where he spent much of his younger days before the community moved to Winneway.

Life at Sand Point was good, Walter recalled. "We just lived there quietly. I think about it sometimes... I wish I was still there."

"Today there's no bush"

Elder Isaac Hunter.

ISAAC HUNTER, the father of Winneway Chief Jimmy Hunter, remembers the flooding that drove him and his family from their ancestral land as a young man.

It happened in 1936. Isaac lived at Rapid-7, a few miles away from the present site of Winneway. They were not consulted about the flooding of their lands by a hydro-electric project. "We only knew when the water was coming up," said Isaac, who was 16 at the time. "We knew they were doing something there."

When Isaac was young he spent most of his time in the bush. "My dad took me out of school. I only remember I went to school two years."

Isaac and his wife, Helen, are both healers. In their kitchen they showed us items used to treat various ailments. Red willow was used for sore eyes. Colds and high blood pressure were treated with the cedar dwarf spruce and choke cherry tree. Helen said she has almost cured a diabetes affliction using traditional methods.

After the flooding at Rapid-7, the people moved eight miles to a site called Sand Point, where they spent the next 25 years. The hunting and trapping way of life was severely hurt by the move.

We asked Isaac if people continued to trap at Sand Point. "Not too much," he said. "There were no trees there."

In 1960, they moved again to Winneway, where another hydro-dam had been built back in 1938. Isaac himself had briefly worked on that dam as a labourer when he was a young man.

A lot has changed in the last half-century, he said. "At that time in the bush it was different. Today everywhere you go you see somebody. A long time ago you go three months and you see nobody—not even a game warden," said Isaac.

"I know there were more animals. I know there was a lot of muskrats. Today there is none. Same thing with the moose. There used to be lots of deers.

"Today there's no bush. Today when you go out there, there's no bush. All you see is stumps. Everything is different."

—written by Alex Roslin

Elders interviewed by Alex Roslin and Will Nicholls

Winneway dam time-line

by Will Nicholls

1912 Long Point Band forced to move because of hydro-electric project.

1936 Some band members forced off their traplines again by another hydro-project at Rapid-7.

1938 Lt.-Governor decides to encourage mining growth in the region. He allows construction of dams to harness the Winneway River. Power would be used by mining interests. The company Belleterre Quebec Mines is leased the dams, powerhouses and a 44-KV transmission line to the nearby town of Belleterre. The leases run out in 1978 at which time the Quebec government becomes owner of the lands and dams except the equipment (i.e. turbines, alternators).

1942 Belleterre, the town, is founded. Construction starts on a second set of turbines and several small dams.

1947 The law is modified so the town of Belleterre can be

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WINNEWAY TIME-LINE

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supplied with electricity from the dam.

1959 Belleterre Quebec Mines shuts down operations.

1960 Band moves again to its present location at Winneway.

1963 Lorraine Mining Co. takes over the mining sites of Belleterre Quebec Mines.

1969 Belleterre Quebec Mines ceases operation of the dams.

1974 The town of Belleterre buys the leases to the dams for $1.

1978 The leases are up and the Quebec government becomes owner of the Winneway Hydro-electric Complex.

1986 A Hydro-Quebec team studies the complex and says a few modifications have to be made but that the powerhouse is in good condition.

1987 The town of Belleterre sells its electricity distribution network to Hydro-Quebec.

1989 Hydro-Quebec passes on the chance to buy the Winneway Complex saying the costs to renovate weren't worth it given the small capacity (2.4 megawatts). Hydro-Quebec links up Belleterre to its existing electrical network. The Winneway dams aren't supplying the town of Belleterre anymore. Belleterre is trying to find a buyer.

1990, June A private promoter, Innocan, comes forward with a $1,000,000 offer for the complex.

July The Winneway Long Point Band passes a resolution saying they wish to purchase the dam complex. They send a letter of interest to the town of Belleterre, who respond that they are under contract with Innocan and cannot consider other offers at this time.

August Innocan withdraws its offer.

September Winneway Long Point Band sends a letter to the Ministry of Energy Lise Bacon contesting the sale to outside investors without considering local investors first. The ministry responds that the town of Belleterre has the legal right to sell to whom they please. The government at this point is the real owner of the complex but not of the turbines and alternators.

1991, Jan.-March Innocan and the Winneway Long Point Band meet to consider a joint venture on the complex. In a speech in February, Energy Minister Lise Bacon says if more than one promoter is interested in the dam, priority will be given to "environmental protection and regional participation in the project."

March-April The Quebec government transfers the lands, dams and other portions of the Winneway complex to the town of Belleterre.

May Innocan and Winneway Long Point Band propose a joint venture.

July Hydro-Quebec puts 13 small hydro-projects up for sale. Innocan starts thinking about buying some of these dams instead.

August Innocan closes all offers to purchase the Winneway site. The Winneway Long Point Band meets

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with the town of Belleterre to look at the possibility of a joint venture. They also send a letter of intent to purchase the system for $500,000. Belleterre decides to sell by way of public tender.

September The Winneway Long Point Band completes a feasibility study proposing a total planned investment of $3,150,000, including the $500,000 purchase price. They send a letter to the town: $50,000 cash with the offer, $50,000 at the signing and $100,000 a year for four years.

October Belleterre counter-offers with $100,000 cash, $100,000 year at 12-per-cent interest and no guarantees or warranties. The parties meet to discuss the offer and counter-offer.

November The town of Belleterre sells the complex to Hydro-Pemik, owned by Peter Kuczer, for $515,000.

1992, Feb. Ducks Unlimited interested in supporting the Long Point Band's effort to acquire the dam.

March Long Point Band tries in vain to get government assistance for their project and a response from Lise Bacon, who has not replied to any letters sent by the band. Hydro-Pemik offers to let Winneway Long Point Band have a 20-per-cent share for $570,000. Winneway Long Point Band says an internal rule is that all joint ventures must be on a 50-per-cent share basis.

Also in 1992 Hydro-Quebec agrees to a 20-year contract to buy power from the Winneway dam. The market value of the dam complex is now set at $3 million even though Hydro-Pemik got it for only $515,000.

1993 Hydro-Pemik owner Peter Kuczer donates $3,000 to the then-ruling Quebec Liberal Party, the maximum allowed under the law.

1994, Jan. Winneway dam overflows for the first time anyone can remember. The band believes the dam is being mismanaged. In May, dam overflows again day after Environment Quebec assures the band that the dam is safe.

1994, May Peter Kuczer arrested on money-laundering charges in the U.S. (he is cleared in September).

1995, April Kuczer's company goes bankrupt. Barclays Bank assumes ownership of dam, negotiating with Cascades Energy to manage day-to-day operation of the dam.

POWER...

continued from page 10

development. In fact, officials in Quebec seem ready to hand the hydro-dam over to just about anyone except Winneway.

The dam has flipped hands three times in under 20 years. The situation got really strange when the dam was sold to Peter Kuczer, a Montreal developer arrested in May 1994 for alleged money-laundering in the U.S.

U.S. Customs alleged that Kuczer wanted to launder drug money through his company Hydro P-1, the same company that owns the Winneway dam. Kuczer was cleared of the U.S. criminal charge in Sept. 1994. He agreed to plead guilty to a misdemeanor charge and pay a $1,000 fine for failing to sign a quarterly Internal Revenue Service declaration.

In June 1994, the newspaper *Les Affaires* reported that Kuczer was also being pursued for unpaid GST and provincial sales tax. His firm finally went bankrupt in April and is being pursued by creditors for $17 million.

Chief Jimmy Hunter.

"Everyone knows electricity and water don't mix"

When Kuczer took over the Winneway dam, band members employed at the dam were let go and replaced by out-of-towners. Now they have to put up with the indignity of dam workers coming through their community every day on their way to jobs that used to be held by Winneway residents. The only route to the dam is through Winneway, which the band points to as yet another reason Quebec can't ignore Winneway's concerns.

Kuczer bought the dam from the town of Belleterre, 21 km away, in 1991. The sale took Winneway by surprise since at the time the band was in the middle of lobbying Quebec to take over the dam itself. Just months before the sale, the Quebec government transferred the real estate at the Winneway dam, which it still owned at the time, to the town of Belleterre.

At the time of the sale, the Liberals were in power in Quebec City. Curiously, the Liberal Party received a $3,000 donation from Kuczer in 1993, the maximum allowed under the law. To this day, Belleterre still hasn't been paid in full for the dam by Kuczer's company. He got the dam for $515,000, a fraction of the current market value of just over $3 million.

After Kuczer's legal problems, U.K.-based Barclays Bank took over the dam. But even though Winneway is more than ready to pay a fair price for the dam, the bank is now courting yet another outside interest, Cascade Energy Inc., to run it. Winneway is being frozen out again.

"We feel they're not taking us seriously," said Chief Hunter. "They don't want us to take care of our own economic development. They want us to be on welfare. We don't want that. We don't want government hand-outs."

Not only that, the dam is poorly run and badly needs repairs, according to band officials and an engineering consultants' study financed by the federal government.

The dam overflowed twice last year. Elders say they can't remember the dam ever overflowing before in its 57-year life.

On a visit to the dam in early April, we witnessed water all over the floor in the generating station. The water was seeping into the generating station from cracks in penstock, a tube that carries water to the station from the dam's reservoir. These cracks must be repaired, Chief Hunter said.

If water had gotten into the generator, the entire structure could have been severely damaged. "Everyone knows electricity and water don't mix."

Also inside the station was an out-of-order sign hung on a large hook used to lift the station's two huge flywheels. Health and safety officials had declared the hoist unsafe.

Yvon Lemire, the only employee present at the dam, said the dam wall itself also has several cracks. "But they are only little ones," he said. Lemire, who's worked at the dam two years, never worked at a dam before. His only training was a two-day course on Hydro-Quebec norms and regulations.

Winneway residents say if they were in charge, they could run the dam more safely and efficiently, and save the government money in lower welfare payments.

"It would mean a beginning," said Winneway's economic development officer. "We've been pushed aside for so many years. We're always at the bad end of the stick. We want to change that."

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From the GCCQ news desk:

OUJE-BOUGOUMOU SWEARS IN CHIEF PEACEKEEPER

On the 31st of March, Ouje-Bougoumou Deputy Chief Sam Bosum swore in George Gunner as the Chief Peacekeeper of this latest Cree community.

The oath that the Chief Peacekeeper swore was:

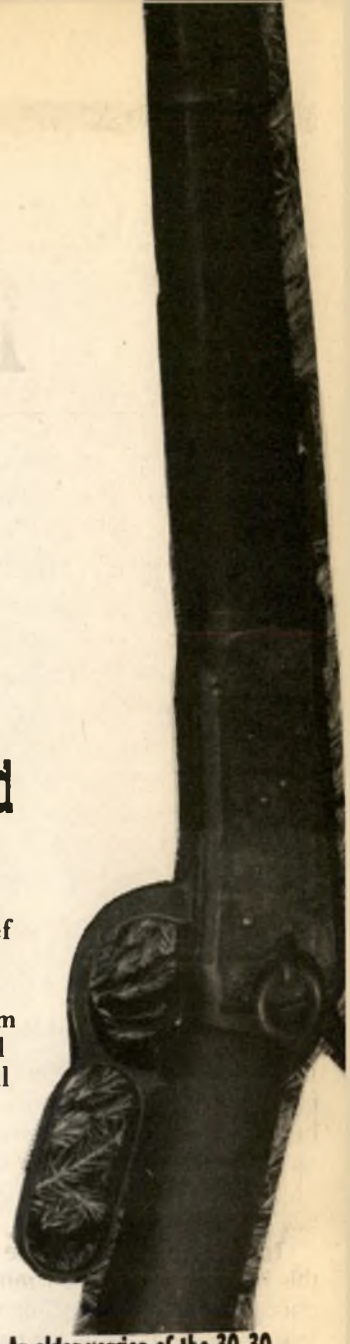
I, George Gunner, hereby make a promise to the Ouje-Bougoumou people. In view of the inherent right of the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree First Nation to govern its own affairs on its Traditional Territory and in view of the importance of Traditional Cree ways of resolving disputes and dealing with proper behaviour, I promise:

* To do all in my power to ensure the safety and security of the Ouje-Bougoumou people and their property,
* To enforce to the best of my ability all Ouje-Bougoumou by-laws, regulations and laws which govern the Ouje-Bougoumou territory,
* To assist people in distress in the Ouje-Bougoumou territory,
* To be respectful of all people in the exercise of my duties,
* To set a positive role model for the youth of Ouje-Bougoumou,
* And to do all that is asked of me in my capacity as Chief Peacekeeper of the Ouje-Bougoumou Nation.

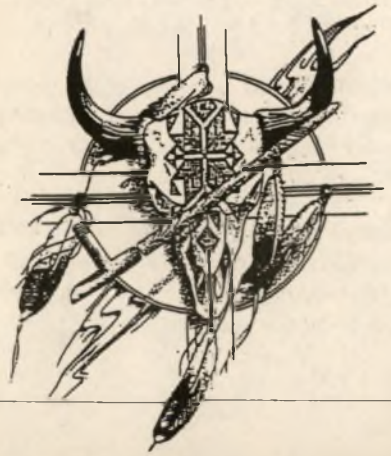
So help me God.

Grand Chief Honoured

Congratulations to Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come on his recent award. At the Nation Aboriginal Achievement Awards the Grand Chief was recognized for his achievements in the category of Environment and Public Services. Congratulations from all the staff of the Grand Council and Cree Regional Authority on a job well done.



An older version of the 30-30. This Winchester model has a "saddle ring" above the trigger that was used to tie down the gun to a saddle carrying case. The 30-30 was the hunting gun of choice for many Cree in the past as it was shorter than a rifle and could easily be carried in the bush.



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Inland waterfowl hunting and lifestyle of long ago

Told by Job Bearskin

Translated and edited by Brian Webb

I cannot talk about the goose very much. I can about the goose hunting from inland; however, I cannot talk about it from the coastals' ways. I never hunted for geese here on the coast. But inland that is where I can talk about the goose.

The geese start to fly in the beginning of this next moon (May). I remember that decoys were not used inland. We only looked for the waterfowl where there was water. That was how waterfowl was hunted.

I joined the hunting excursions many times when waterfowl was looked for. I would scare the geese in a particular direction to someone who is going to shoot them. That was why I accompanied the hunters. That is what I was taught to do. When I accompanied my older brother or my father, they used to say to me, "I will go over there and listen for my whistle. And when you hear me whistle, move into my direction to scare the waterfowl in my direction."

That was how my father and my older brother taught me. That was how my father and my older brother killed geese when I accompanied them. As I remember it, decoys were not used for those geese we looked for. For me, I really didn't kill waterfowl, but I only scared them in a certain direction.

Around the 20th of the Red Throated Loon Moon (May) that is when all the ducks, loons and red-throated loons fly in—mallards, mergansers, pintails, the whistling common scoter ducks and those oldsquaws that call "ahaawaa."

It used to be said that the loon flies in on the 25th of May; however, not all flew in at the same time. Loons landed on the water where it was clear of ice. Loons don't fly even when they see people and they used to be killed by following them by canoe.

When ducks were seen on the water when walking during the summer, I would sometimes scare them in the direction where the hunters were. When my father and my older brother couldn't creep toward the ducks because of their distance from the land, I would scare the ducks toward them. That was how waterfowl hunting was done long ago. There used to be a great deal of commotion when waterfowl were expected. The people ate the ducks when they arrived. In the evenings, everybody was given a duck to cook and everybody ate together. The hunters feasted.

When the people wanted a feast, one person who would hold the feast was given all the geese. That was what was done long ago before we were born. That is long-ago doings. Some people do it today—copying it.

When the first goose was killed, everybody had to get a taste at that inland dwelling. Even when just two ducks were killed, that was still done—everybody would get the first taste of duck. What they did long ago, that is still done today. I remember that people used to be eager for the ducks to fly in, when there was no food. Once the newly living ones saw the decoys of the coastals, that was when the inland people started using them. The newly living inland people just recently started using decoys. That is how we, the inland people, eat goose when the geese arrive.

I saw how the Iiyiyuuch (Cree people) were responsible for themselves. That is how knowledgeable they were, before there were (Hudson's Bay Co.) buildings here inland where we are. They didn't see buildings all winter. The summer was still long when we got into our canoes here at the houses (Fort George) and it was already a long summer when we saw the buildings again. That is because people were hunting nomadically—making a living in one year of being away.

I remember there were inland buildings, but the people from the past didn't see buildings all year. Since there were houses inland, my father used to take a trip to the buildings for supplies and that really helped the people. There were others who didn't see houses all year, even when the buildings were inland. Then as I lived on my own, I didn't see houses for a whole year.

That was what it was like for those people who hunted and survived by themselves—when they didn't see buildings for one year. They must have been good hunters, even though there were no caribou. When one found a bear, there was great happiness. It was thought that this was a great quantity of food, when one bear is found. That was how hunters were like, those who always hunted. They were called nomadic hunters, those who hunted all year. I remember that was how people looked when we were far inland.

Ever since I was on my own, I always stayed in the bush for the winter. That is why I know how inland hunting was like—people hunting nomadically. Those were my father's teachings. There is a great amount of learning in the procedures of hunting. That is what my father taught me ever since I really started to hunt. There are different ways of hunting different things. My father taught me how all hunting is done.

Coming On CBC TV

April 29 and 30
Maamuitaau travels to the Cree Nation Gathering, held last September at the old settlement of Nemaska. Leaders, elders and youth talk about the future, the culture and issues facing the Cree Nation. Also a vignette profiling Clifford Georgekish demonstrating the making of a cache and its use. *(repeat)*

May 6 and 7
The 35th anniversary of Wemindji is celebrated in a gathering of Cree on this week's edition of **Maamuitaau**. With special anniversary celebrations, the annual traditional retreat is a time for remembering the ways of the past and looking ahead to the future. Also a vignette profiling Emily Hughboy on the use of moss. *(repeat)*

Watch **Maamuitaau:** (subject of change)

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BY MARLENE ETAPP-DIXON

Life as a Trapper

Life in the bush as trappers for 10 years was a cherishable memory and a worthy experience. I married a Cree trapper who trained me to clean and skin the game that he killed. Because I was raised in residential school and lived the city life, I was inexperienced with the bush life.

Shortly after our marriage in 1970, we moved to live in the bush at a place called Gagnon Siding, Quebec. It was a lumber company and only operated during the seasonal year. We lived further up from the camp site. Our home was a log cabin which was built by a friend of my husband who died about 30 years ago. The cabin is 18-by-20 feet long, and we did not have any electricity nor an inside toilet. We used lanterns for light and built an outdoor toilet.

In the summertime, we carried our water supply from the nearby creek. We got our drinking water from the well that was made by my husband. During the winter season, our water supply was fetched much easier, because I was able to pull the pails of water with the ski-doo. I washed clothes by using a scrubbing board in a metal tub that was filled with water; the water was heated on a wood-burning stove. Most of my laundry was hung outside on a clothesline. We used a wood stove for heat in our home and had to gather a lot of dry wood. The birch wood is better to burn, because the fire lasts longer and was especially good for the cold winter nights.

I learned to chop wood by using an axe. I find the birch wood is much easier to split due to the cold weather. During the winter period, we used about two cords of firewood per week. Living in the bush is a hard life. I didn't do all the heavy chores because my husband helped a lot.

We bought our groceries in the town of Senneterre, Quebec, which is about 100 kilometres away, and the only transportation to town was by taking the train (Canadian National Railway). We generally bought large quantities of basic dry goods, such as hundred pound flour, fifty pound shortening, oats, rice, fifty pound sugar, tea, coffee, fifty pound potatoes, baking powder, one case of carnation milk and eggs, etc.

We also bought equipment for hunting purposes, such as a boat, ski-doo, chainsaw, naphtha, etc. We purchased two ski-doo's and we used about eight drums of gasoline per year. We also bought propane for our oven stove, which was very helpful to have in the bush.

In our first year of trapping, we caught 10 lynx on number four traps or on the snares. Usually the lynx traps were set on nearby beaver dams, because the lynx tended to be around that area. In those days, the average cost per lynx was $100, and in the year 1987-1988 they were worth $500 to $700. Beavers were one of the main animals to trap, and we caught an average of 60 beavers per year. A large beaver's fur was worth $25, depending on the colour and length of the fur.

Other game we trapped were marten, mink, fox and otter. We rarely caught martens because the trees had been cut down, and as of today, there are martens everywhere in that area. During the spring season, we would go muskrat trapping by camping out in the bush for about four weeks and we usually caught an average of 80 muskrats. At that time, the muskrat was worth $5 apiece for a large one. In most traplines, except for the beaver traps, my husband used baits. He made his own bait recipe which often helped the success in our trapping.

Moose was one of the important animals to kill for food, and the hide provided our material needs, such as mittens, gloves,

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Trapper's life...

continued from page 19

moccasins and lace for the snowshoes. Also, my mother taught me how to tan the moose hide into leather. To prepare the hides takes at least six weeks. My husband killed about 10 moose per year; the meat was mostly shared by extended families and friends. I learned to hunt for smaller game by putting up rabbit snares because I enjoyed doing it. Or partridge hunting.

As I stated in the beginning, it was my husband who had trained me how to skin the game that he brought home from his traplines. My first lessons were by observing and receiving lectures; as a beginner, I skinned the smaller game.

For the beaver, I used a tool which was made from a beaver bone called fresher, and then used a sharp knife to cut the meat off the back of the beaver. I also learned to butcher the beaver.

The next step is to dry the beaver skin by putting it on a round wooden frame. A needle and strong twine string are used to put the skin over the frame, then the skin is stretched out ovally shaped. The next procedure is to scrape off the meat that was left on the beaver skin. The holes on the beaver's ankles and wrists were sewn closed. The final step is to dry the beaver skin, either to hang it inside or outside.

After I learned to skin the smaller game, I went into bigger game. By then, I had passed my lessons. It takes an average of two to three hours to prepare large beaver, including framing the skin, but it all depends on the speed of your strength. I had found the mink and otter too difficult to skin because of the thick grease in them. To skin an otter can take about four hours, depending on their sizes.

During my life in the bush, I had experienced strange dreams which I didn't quite understand; however, it was brought to my attention that dreams are important for Natives, especially in our way of life. Dreams often gave messages for warning signs ahead; some messages are for good or bad. For example, some dreams could be having a relationship with the opposite sex, and both spouses have the same dreams, but not the same night. This dream usually meant that the hunter will be successful in his trapping or he will probably kill a big game in the near future. For another example, I dreamt a black fox came inside our cabin and bit my right hand; then about three days later, my right hand developed eczema and this had been created by washing too much clothes on the scrubbing board.

One of my favourite pastimes was reading novels and taking long walks on the railway tracks. I have strong memories walking on the railway tracks ever since I was 12 years old. I often walked with my mother when we checked our rabbit snares, and when I first met my husband, we took many walks on the same railway tracks. When my children became older, we loved to take long walks on the same tracks.

Since then, I still have those wonderful memories and I am especially happy that I gained knowledge in our Cree way of life as Cree trappers. I also grew to love nature and saw the beauty of our country in the wilderness.

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The O.J. Simpson trial

Here's a problem that the Secondary 3B English class, Wemindji, has with the O.J. Simpson case. On the night of the double murder, 12 June 1994, neighbours heard Nicole's dog Kato barking around 10:15 or 10:30. But no one seems to have heard anyone yelling or screaming at that time or shortly before. The question is, how could two persons be attacked by someone (or some ones) wielding a knife and not make a sound?

The murders took place on a mild summer night during that part of the evening when things tend to be quiet—when the least sound can be heard virtually throughout a community. It seems to us there are several possible explanations:

1. The victims were killed so quickly that they didn't have the chance to react. This explanation is hard to accept because the evidence suggests that Ron Goldman put up a fierce defense before he was finally overcome by his assailant.

2. The victims were killed separately—i.e., the second victim wasn't present when the first victim was killed. This would explain why the one victim wasn't yelling while the other was being stabbed.

3. One or both victims were killed elsewhere and then left in Nicole's yard.

4. One or both of the victims did yell but the neighbours, displaying an attitude typical of urban life in the late 20th century, did not choose to become involved. Perhaps they were too scared to act and subsequently, when interviewed by the police, withheld the information out of embarassment.

These are our thoughts on the situation. What do you think?

Ecomet Visitor
Melvin Kakabat
Wade Atsynia
Sherry Georgekish
Randy Kakabat
Dale McClare

SECONDARY 3B ENGLISH, MAQUATUA EEYOU SCHOOL, WEMINDJI

Loving memory of our dad, Joseph Hester Sr.

*J*oseph our beloved dad; who
*O*n early dawn of April 9, 1990
*S*lipped into eternity
*E*ver so peacefully
*P*recious in the sight of the Lord, And
*H*eaven rejoiced when dad entered into the portals of Glory!!

Forever in our hearts: Hester family in Waskaganish

Memories of Melissa

*M*elissa was a dear cousin and friend of mine who passed away last year because of suicide. She was a sweet and beautiful young girl who had a lot of life in her. I remember her very well when she was just a toddler. I had fun with her, especially teaching her new words in English and some Cree words (the ones I knew). She would make my brother and me laugh.

As she got older and bloomed into a beautiful girl, we eventually became good friends and she would tell me, "I wish you were my sister." I'd say the same and we'd carry on with what we were doing. She was about seven years younger than me but she felt like the same age as I. Our age difference didn't matter though. Just as long as we were there for each other...

I know that the great spirit of Melissa is in the great galaxy. She Gently Soars.

R. Matoush

INNU TAKE FIGHT TO UK

The Innu people have taken their fight against low-level military flights to London, England.

"I don't want low-level flying (over) my homeland," said Elizabeth Penashue at a protest staged in tourist-filled Trafalgar Square in early April. "The people are very nervous, my people. The kids, my grandkids are very nervous.

"That's why I came. I need support. I need help to stop low-level flying in my homeland," she said in a report from Canadian Press.

Four other Innu travelled with Elizabeth to London to convince the British that their military should not be terrorizing Innu children and hunters. British, Dutch and German jets fly about 8,000 training flights over Labrador a year, even though the Cold War is long over. They swoop 35 metres above the ground as they simulate bombing missions. The noise is ear-splitting.

Ottawa wants to nearly double the number of flights to 15,000 a year, or 41 per day.

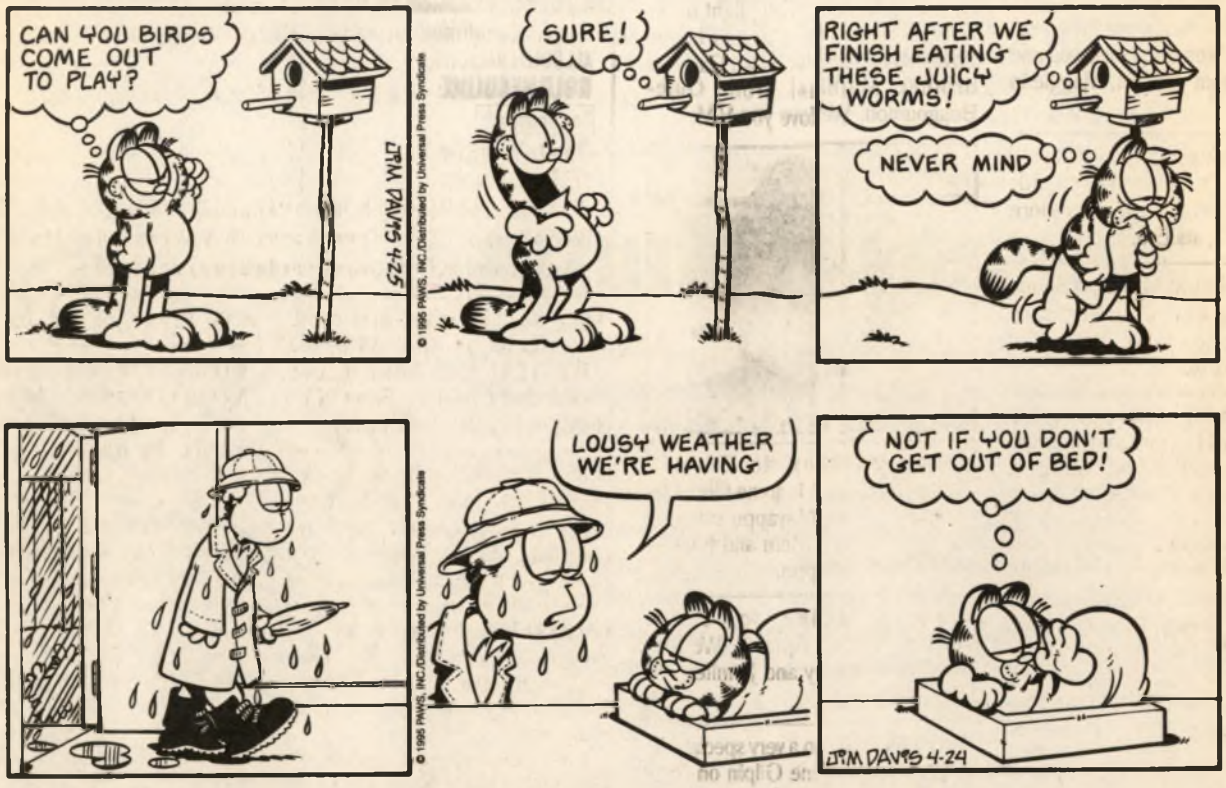
"You may be flown 100 feet from your head five times a day and not be overflown for a week or two," said Peter Penashue, president of the Innu Nation. "So your whole body is stressed out, anxious. You're telling youself: When am I going to be overflown again?"

—Nation staff

NEIL DIAMOND

DIGNITARIES AT THE LAUNCH of the fifth annual Montreal Native Film and Video Festival in the Pointe-a-Calliere Museum in Old Montreal on April 18. The eight-day festival was produced by Terres En Vues (Land in Sight) and sponsored by the council of the Mani-Utenam First Nation. Apart from films and videos, the festival also featured a restrospective of the work of Abenaki filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin, a play called "Femme et Esprit" and an entire day devoted to film and discussion about Native women.

Garfield ® by Jim Davis


CAN YOU BIRDS COME OUT TO PLAY?
JIM DAVIS 4-25
SURE!
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RIGHT AFTER WE FINISH EATING THESE JUICY WORMS!
NEVER MIND
LOUSY WEATHER WE'RE HAVING
© 1995 PAWS, INC./Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
NOT IF YOU DON'T GET OUT OF BED!
JIM DAVIS 4-24

CLASSIFIEDS

100-BIRTHS

Congratulations to dear friends Suzanne, Norman & boys. Sharing with you the pride and joy of your newfound happiness, your precious newborn daughter Siikun Danielle Star (March 23). Only a baby can rekindle the wonder and awe of life and make your life complete. P.S. to Norman. We will remember your method. In friendship, St. Pierre family.

Congratulations to Marlene Jackson on the birth of their son Owen James who was born on March 24, 1995. Gail have fun with your little bro. Love, Claude, Kyla and Miranda. XOXOXO.

101-BIRTHDAYS

We would like to wish a very happy 12th birthday to our special, adorable, tall, loving baby daughter and sister Nellie Emma Brien on April 19th. Hey, remember when you were 6 years old, how you used to say these words, "I love you, to you - to me." These words will always be treasured with us. God bless you on your birthday and through each future day. We love you, from Mom, Dad and bro Ernest in Mistissini.

Happy 12th birthday to my baby sister Nellie Emma Brien on April 19th. Hey baby sis, remember how I used to tease and bug you? Remember this? "I love you, to you - to me." Gotcha again! (ha ha). I miss you and I love you. From your sis, Maggie in Chisasibi.

I want to wish a happy birthday to my sisters, Bella on March 30, Annette on April 22 and many more to come! Love, sis Eva.

On April 7 I want to wish a happy birthday to my sister Cat. Many more to come so enjoy the day. From Louisa. xoxoxoxo

Happy birthday wishes going out to Cassandra. Happy 6th birthday on March 27th. Lots of love. Tyler and Chiiwetin.

We want to wish a happy belated 13th birthday to our sweet, loyable and beautiful neice Jessica Longchap on March 21. Now, be a good girl in your teens, this means no boys till your 18th birthday. Hope you had a great day and don't forget we love you. from George, Kitty and Jennica. xoxoxo

I want to wish a happy birthday to my dearest sister Louise L. Bosum on April 20. I love you and you're very special to me, especially your little rascals. Hope your dreams will come true (finish high school and get a good job). Keep up the good work and don't quit while you're ahead. from Kitty, Jennica and George. xoxoxo

Happy happy happy 3rd birthday to Brendan "Speed" Gunner on April 1st. We love you. from Kitty, George and Jennica. xoxoxo

Birthday greetings going out to Mabel Moar on May 21. You've turned out to be a very special in-law! Have a great one!! Love always, The Moars. XOXOXO

We would like to wish a happy b-day to our special daughter Diane M. on May 8. Wishes going your way as you celebrate your birthday! Love always, Mom and Dad. XOXOXO.

I would like to wish a happy 7th birthday to our special girl Cindy Matches (April 12) We love you! From Mom, Dad and Troy in Waskaganish. XOXOXO.

Happy b-day to Mellissa Namagoose on April 19. Hope you didn't have a boring day. From someone in Waskaganish.

Happy belated birthday to my sweet angel Valentina who'll be 2 years old on March 9. You are the light of my life! Can't wait to take you to Florida. Love, Mom, Annette, Dad, Carl and brother Mathias! from Oujebougoumou. We love you V.M.

Happy birthday to Bernard Mayappo on April 1. Irene Gilpin on April 28, Dinah Mayappo on April 29. Love always, Mom and Jennifer and Gilbert Mayappo.

Happy birthday to Caitlin Whiskeychan on April 9. We love you. From Granny and Jennifer and Dinah Mayappo.

Happy birthday to a very special person, our Mom Irene Gilpin on April 28. We love you. Love always, Timmy and Leonard Gilpin.

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Happy birthday to my funny brother Joshua Loon on April 23rd. WE LOVE YOU AND TAKE CARE, please don't party... From Kitty, George and Jennica. xoxoxoxo

Happy Birthday to Francis Trapper on April 1st. Many more to come - you are very special mom and grandma. We love you very much. Fr. Annie and Nakoa.

Happy B-Day goes out to our mom Rosemary on April 4 /95. Hope you'll enjoy your day. We love you. You're the best mom in the world. Fr. Your Girls.

Birthday wishes goes out to our dad George on April 13. Hope your wish will come true. You're the best dad, we love you. Fr. your Girls.

Birthday wishes goes out to Meequin Ottereyes on April 13. Hope you'll enjoy your 1st B-day and have fun. Fr. the Matches family. xoxoxoxox

Happy belated b-days goes out to Michael and Boysh Sam and to Bernice Tooktoo. Hope you guys enjoyed your days! Fr. the Matches family.

We want to wish a happy birthday to our uncle and brother Paul Mianscum. He will be celebrating it on April 8 as well. Fr. Joe, Sally, Arlene, J.J and Joey Mians.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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We would like to wish a Happy 75fth B-Day and many more to come to a loving, caring, wonderful mother, grandmother and a wife, we love you always. Fr. Your husband John. Children: Joseph, Michael, Yvonne-Janie and Margaret-Rose. Grandchildren: Gordon, Jonathan, Burton, Allen-Michael, Jason, Raymond, Ralph and Justin, Melissa, Lucy-Ann, Marcia-Jane and Amelia. Happy B-Day grandma missing you. xoxo on April 10 /95.

Happy Birthday to Norman Katapatuk on April 12 & Philip Weistche on May 9. We love you! Fr: Mom & Dad. Warren & Jordan & also from your sister Phyllis Katapatuk. Fr: Waskaganish.

Happy belated birthday to our lovely neice Brittany Carley in Wemindji who turned 3 on March 16. We love and miss you. With love, from your uncle and aunts in Chisasibi. xoxoxo

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my Godson Wesley Washipabano on April 12, to my neice Desiree Ottereyes on April 20, and to my friend Sandra MacDonald on April 25. Fr. Cyndi.

April 13 is b-day for Nerissa Bates. From your friends, Pauline, Suzanne & Cynthia. Come and visit more often!

Birthday greetings to Sebastien Pelletier-Wadden who will be turning on April 12. Lots of love from Mom, Dad and sis Hazel who are hoping those "terrible two's" are now over. The same goes to April Louttit who's also turning three on April 24th.

A birthday wish going out to my daddy Wesley on March 26. I love you with all my heart even when you're always gone (bush Indian). With love, hugs and kisses, your daughter Noelene Yostin M.

Birthday wishes going out to our parents Willie O. on April 4, Annie O. on April 14 and to our baby sister Christina O. on April 11. Remember you're the best fammily we ever had. Fr. all your children (Mistissini) xoxoxo

Happy birthday to our uncle Norman Wapachee on April 13. Hope you realize you're as special as we are. We love you. Fr. Malachi Hug-a-buns and Chiwet in the menace.

We wanna wish a Happy Birthday to Stephanie Kitchen on April 13 Love: Lorraine, Brendan, Brett

We wanna wish a happy birthday to a special friend Stephanie Kitchen on April 13 Fr: Freind Always Cathy-Rose Hester

Birthday greetings going out to Charene Diamond on April 9, wishing you a happy b-day From the Moars!! xox

We would like to wish a happy b-day to Lindy Moar on April 10. We hope you have a good time! Love always, Stella, Noreen, Diane & Sarah

Happy 3rd Birthday to my sweet huggable cousin Tristan on April 10 and also to Indoomakin Curtis whose turning 4 on April 11. Hope you guys have a great time. I miss you a lot! with hugs and kisses Naomi.xoxoxo

I would like to wish a very happy birthday to two of my special friends April 1, on April 8 and John B. on April 3. Wishing you both the best. From your friend Naomi.xoxoxox

I want to wish a happy birthday to my mom & dad Sarah & William Snowboy. Mom's birthday April 24, Dad's birthday April 29, I just want to remind them that I love them very much from Diane & family

We would like to wish a happy 17th birthday to Sandy Coon Come on April 3 from: your secret admirer xo

We would like to wish a happy 1st birthday to our adorable little nephew Adrian Moore from Waswanipi on April 15/95 Lots of hugs and kisses love Marcel, Jenny & Darius

I want to wish a happy b-day to our loving mother, Sally Mianscum. She will be celebrating her b-day on April 8 and to Nathan Saganash who will be celebrating it on April 8 too! Love always Joe Arlene JJ & Joey

Birthday wishes going out to: Roseanna April 1, Martha D. April 2, Cathy H. April 7, Maggie B. April 11, Eddie H. April 11, Emily M. April 12, Bobby B. April 14, Joanne S. April 15, Aaron H. April 21, Louis B. April 24, Maria Ice. April 10, Kenneth Ice. April 20., Priscilla M. April 24, Gary C. April 26, Lorraine P. April 28, Ryansh April 29, Nadia H. April 29, Romeo O. April 29, Emily H. April 29, Jackson April 29, Jimmy N. April 29. from Claude B. in Waswanipi.

Happy birthday to Grandma Maggie B. April 11. Uncle Bobby B. April 14, Joanne S. April 15 and to my cousin Aaron H. From love always, Ryansh. xoxoxo.

We would like to wish a happy second birthday to our son Ryan on April 29. love always, Gordon & Georgette. xoxoxoxo

Happy first birthday to our sweet daughter Lynn Ann-Marie Blacksmith Matoush. We love you very much. Fr. Mom and dad.

I would like to wish my one and only son Adrian Josian Moore Neeposh a happy birthday on April 15, 95 with all my love Fr: Mom Brenda Moore

Belated birthday wishes going to my dear mother Mabel Gunner on April 15 and to my baby bro. Gordon F. Gunner on April 08 who lives in Chi. Best wishes to u both with lots of love LC. Mist.

Wishing a Happy Birthday on April 29th - to my sister Louisa Bobbish with a song from Barney. "I know she's always there and I know she'll always care. She's my sister! I love my sister!" From your sister Janet

Birthday Wishes to a birthday girl - my daughter Louis Bobbish. I never forget that beautiful spring day, sun shining bright, blue skies, the geese were flying. On April 29th at 11:45 a.m. She was born to me - my lovely, sweet daughter. Ever since then, I love her more and more each day. LOVE ALWAYS-Mom.

Happy birthday to Lily Blueboy on April 6th. Good luck! From all the staff at Kanio-Kashee Lodge in Waskaganish.

Happy birthday kisses to Joelle Joy Blueboy on April 9th in Wask. Two years already Sweetie! From Charlene.

To our dad. Have a wonderful birthday (April 16) and many healthy years to come. Love always, Ernie, Sandra, Gary & Brian.

A special birthday to Joomshoom Tom. Love Alex & Kataleen OXOXOX... We love love the way you spoil us.

Belated birthday wish going out to Jordan Bobbish (April 7). Love, from your two little cousins.

Happy thirty something birthday to Leslie (April 15). Have a great day. From Apt. # 6.

Birthday greetings going out to Clara Weapinicappo on April 16. Sylvester Weapinicappo on April 11 (Wemindji). Love always, Florence and Johnny Shecapio (Mist.)

A happy belated birthday wish going out to Theresa Longchap on March 22. Friend always, Fl;orence S. (Mist.)

Happy 40th b-day to our dad Matthew Wapachee on March 4 (Nemaska). We thank you for the support, the love and care that you have shown throughout the great years!!! We love you a lot! From your kids, Laura, Brenda, John and Celina.

Happy birthday to our friend in Wemindji Charlotte Henay on April 16th. Hope your day is special. From Janie & Jennifer (Chis.).

We would like to wish happy birthday to Eric on April 9, Eleanor on April 13, Jessica on April 14. May the Lord richly bless you with many more. From your family at 56 Etudah. Mist. Love you all.

Happy 6th birthday to Heather "Beans" Mianscum. Enjoy the present I sent you. Luv, hugs & kisses, Aunt Jen.

Happy birthday to our cousin Heather "Beans" Mianscum. Save us some cake but if you can't it's okay. We'll just bake another one (in Grandma's kitchen) when we get home. Can't wait to see you. Love, your double trouble cousins, Trish and Andi. P.S. Say hi to Lorraine's for us.

Happy (blank) birthday to my only mom, Bella. I wish I was home to celebrate your birthday with you. You know, go to Chibougoumou, have a meal (my treat, of course, with Dad's credit card), have some wine, then go to SuperClub. Oh well, I guess we'll just have to do it when I get home. Love, your only daughter, Jen.

Happy birthday to "Mom." We miss you and love you. Hope you have a great birthday. Love, your girls, Trish and Andi. (Hi "Dad"!!)

Happy birthday to Rodney Pet on March 11. Hope you have a great one this year (but not like the one last year or the year before that.) Just teasing. Just enjoy yourself. You're not going to stay "18" forever!! Love, Jen.

Happy belated birthday to "Elvis."

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CLASSIFIEDS

From Trish and Andrea "Hamburger."

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our loving and caring grandmother, Mabel Gunner, on April 15. Enjoy your birthday and God bless you. With lots of love, hugs and kisses. From all of your 52 grandchildren in Mistissini.

Happy birthday to Cathy Happyjack on April 7. Don't think of it as getting older but only getting wiser. Your buddy Helen M. in Waswanipi.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to a very good kid in Mistissini Ryan Stanley Gunner on April 5. With love always, Louise, Brandon and Ben.

Birthday greetings going out to my grandma Emma on April 2nd. I love you so much! With lots of love, hugs and kisses from April G. (Chisasibi)

Happy belated birthday wishes going out to our friend Tiffany Bearskin on March 24 and many more to come! From your friends Debra-Lee, Jullianna and April (Chisaslbi)

Happy birthday to our Grandma Emma on April 2nd. WE LOVE YOU VERY MUCH! With love, Jeremy, Joan-Marie, Marty, Bobby, April and Terri-Lynn (Chisasibi).

I want to wish a happy birthday to my two aunts. Virginia on March 26 and Jennifer on April 2nd. Don't party too much! From your neice April in Chisasibi.

Happy birthday to our dad on April 26. We love ya! With lots of love, Jeremy, Joan-Marie, Marty, Bobby and April (Chisasibi).

We want to wish a happy birthday to Mary Ann M. in Chisasibi on April 8. Hey sis, don't party too much! Love, Jeannie & Margo in Mistissini.

Happy birthday to Jamie Bear on April 17. With lots of love, Maggie M.

Happy 7th birthday to a wonderful boy, Kory. May your birthday be as special as you are. Love, from your whole family. XOXOXO Birthday wishes from Waswanipi and Val d'Or.

Happy birthday to my twin sister in Florida on April 11, as you may know that we'll be spending our b-day together and I can't wait. I miss and love you very much. Make sure you're at the airport on April 7. From your twin Annette in Ouje-Bougoumou, also from Carl, Mathias and Valentina Bosum.

Happy birthday to my baby sister Joy Melody on April 5. I won't be here but I hope you have a nice day, will bring your gift from Walt Disney okay! Love, sis Annette & family. From Ouje-Bougoumou. XOXOXO.

We would like to wish a happy 5th birthday toAmanda Ottereyes on March 14th and happy 64th birthday to our grandpa Jerry on March 12. We miss you so much. Love always, Zachery and Lawrence in Pointe-Claire. xoxoxo.

I would like to wish a happy 5th birthday to Amanda Ottereyes on March 14th. I miss you. Love always, Mommysh. XOXOXO.

Birthday wishes going out to Jesse Blacksmith on April 17th in North Bay. It's hard to believe it's been 21 years. Harder yet to believe that I actually miss you. Be happy. Luv, Mom.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our butcher, Peter Moses on April 22nd. From the Northern staff in Waskaganish.

Wishing happy birthday to my nephew Calvin Gull on April 30. With love, your auntie Josephine and cousin Aaron Happyjack. XOX

We would like to wish a happy b-day to our great grandma Emily B. on march 25 and our cousin Madrielle Bosum on the 25th. Also from Isaiah and Charlie Bosum from Ojay. We love you both and God bless you both. XOXOXO.

To my one and only son Aaron Happyjack. I wish you all the best on your birthday on April 21. Many more to come. With all my love, your mom Josephine Happyjack. XOXOXO.

Happy birthday to my daughter Joy, my baby on April 5. You're my pride and joy. And to my twins Annette and Theresa S.B. April 11. You're all very special to us. Have fun in Florida Annette and Theresa. With love, Mom and Dad.

Happy birthday to my funniest bro. Thomas Bosum on April 17th. If you ever leave don't be too long we'll miss you. You make us all laugh!! Don't do something weird just have a blast. From Weena. Ouje-Bougoumou.

I wanna wish a happy birthday to my brother Daniel on April 15. "Today for sure" is your birthday. Have fun! I hope your dreams come true. From sis Weena. Ojay.

We would like to wish a happy 5th birthday to the future goalie who call himself Patrick Roy Douglas B. Jonah on March 24th. From Mom, Dad and sisters (Wask.) Hoping that your dream will come true "playing N.H.L." Love ya sweetie pie!

Happy birthday to my man, friend and husband Claude (April 19) Thank God for the miracle of you and for giving me the best. You are and always will be the love of my life. (Next to shopping. Ha, Ha.) Love, Lisa. Ojay.

We wanna wish a very happy 6th birthday to our son Kelvin Curtis Moses-Gilpin on May 1st. We love you so much! Love, Mom and Dad.

We wanna wish a very happy 6th birthday to our brother, Kelvin Curtis Moses-Gilpin on May 1st. We love you, you love us, we're a happy family. From your sisters Kayla and Kerrilyn.

Happy 6th birthday to Kelvin Curtis Moses-Gilpin. Hope you have a great birthday. From Pamela.

Happy birthday to Reggie Gilpin on May 10th, Shannon Moses and George W. Gilpin on May 11th and Stephane Gilpin on May 19th. From Queenie, Ricky and Ks.

We wanna wish a happy birthday to our Dad George W. Gilpin on May 11. A day for hunting not a day for drinks. With love from your kids.

I wish a happy special birthday to my husband George W. Gilpin on May 11. I love you so much honey. With lots of love from your wife.

If all the raindrops were nothing but beer drops oh what a rain that would be on May 11. Happy birthday Grandpa George. With love from Darwin and Kerwin.

We wish a happy belated birthday to Yvon Gilpin on April 20. Who celebrated his birthday on April 20 who celebrated his 18th birthday. With love, Mom, Dad, brothers and sisters.

Birthday wish for mother and grandmother Daisy Erless. Thinking of you on your birthday and God bless on April 20. From Wilfred, Janet and Harvey.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my wonderful sisters, Mabel Moar on May 21st and Suzanne Trapper on May 7th. Congratulations, you're both over the hill. Ha Ha!! Love always, your sis, Sarah.

We would like to wish a happy birthday and a happy Easter to Nellie Sealhunter on April 16, 95. We love you. From your sisters, Frances and rita.

Happy 2nd birthday to Nathan Chiskamish on March 27, 95. Lots of love from Rita, Frances, Hannah and Paula.

I want to wish a happy 16th to my friend in North Bay, Naomi Blacksmith. Wishing you the best and a whole lot more on April 1, 95 and also I really miss you and take care. Friend always, Charlotte B.

Happy birthday to our bro. Samson M atches which will be on April 28 in Chisasibi. We will always be there for you. From your sisters, Rebecca and Edith.

Happy birthday to our dad Claude. Other dadies are great, but to us only you are the best. Simply the best! We love you. Brenda Bones (Noo! not your socks), Albert (It's not me daddy!) and of course Benoit (Waah!) Ojay.

We would like to wish a happy 5th birthday to my son Stephane Ratt on April 4. Love always, Stella and Curtis from Chisasibi.

We would like to wish our precious little boy Mikeysh a happy 5th birthday and happy Easter on April 16. We love you with all our hearts. We will always be there for you. Hugs and kisses from Mom, Tracy and Dad, Gerald.

A birthday wish to our brother Michael on April 16 and happy Easter. We love little bro. Hope all your wishes and dreams come true. From your sister Samantha and bro D!elmer.

I want to wish a happy birthday to my aunts Mabel on May 21 and to Suzanne on May 7. From guess who? It's me, your nephew, Brendan. Love you both. XOXOXO

I would like to wish a happy birthday to a very special aunt Christine Matt. Thanks for all you help and also to Evelyn Longchap on April 12, 95. we love you both. Love and prayers. Winnie, Charlotte, Bella and queenie.

I want to wish a happy birthday to my very special sister Nancy Blacksmith in Nemaska who will celebrate

CLASSIFIEDS

continued from page 25

her birthday on March 31, 1995. Love always, sister, Charlotte B. in Mistissini.

Happy birthday to a very special friend, Sally T. on March 31. You're another day older, but you look younger every year! From Winnie, Charlotte, Bella and queenie.

I would like to wish ahappy birthday to Tyrone and Eva G. on April 19 and to Ryan Blacksmith on April 29. Many more to come. Love always, Kyla, Claude and Miranda. XOXOXO

We would like to wish our special grandson a happy 5th birthday and happy Easter on April 16. We love you Mikey with all our hearts. Hugs and kisses, Grandpa George and Grandma Florence.

102-WEDDINGS

Congratulations to my neice Rubysh and her husband Brian on their wedding day, April 4, 1995. With many good wishes for both of you. I'm sorry I couldn't be there. With love, your aunt in St. Basile, Que.

103-ANNIVERSARIES

We want to wish happy 9th anniversary to our friends Eric & Diane Matthew (Chis.) on April 22nd. Let your love grow and remember the words that you said to each other on that big day. Best wishes and good luck to you both. Love ya! In friendship two special friends in Wask. You know who!

Happy anniversary to Emma and Paul M., Donna and Steve S. From Sandra and Matthew in Waswanipi. April 18.

104-GRADUATIONS

We would like to congratulate our sweet little Suzanne on her graduation from kindergarten at JBES. Good luck in grade one next year. Love, Sarah and Mom.

201-TRIPS

WE'VE GOT TRANSPORTATION (BUS OR PLACE). WE'VE GOT TICKETS (HOCKEY, BASEBALL, SHOW). WE'VE GOT HOTELS (ANY TOWN). ORGANIZE YOUR MINI-GROUP 10 OR MORE, AND CALL NOW: 819-825-8460. "FROM YOUR PLACE TO ANY PLACE."

300-PERSONALS

Easter wishes to a special grandmother, Edna Spencer. "You continue to stay strong and healthy." See you soon. Love, Jeannie.

Happy first Easter to my friend, to my cousin Randall (Jaw-Joo) Pachanos. Hope you'll have the greatest first Easter bunny. Love always, hugs and kisses, your close friend, Camelia. (Wask.)

Deborah Cheezo (in Wask). If you're out there please write to: 1193 Fisher St. North Bay, Ont. P1B 2G8. I would like to hear from you soon. Fr. your friend (in Mist.) N.B.

A friendly hello to friends Louisa and Amelia George in Whapmagoostui. We still remember your nice smiles. Looking forward to seeing you soon and miss you both. Love, friends Valerie & Camelia Jonah (Wask.)

We would like to say hi to Maryann and Crystal Katapatuk in Wask. We hope to see you this summer (in Wask.) From friends always Tanya Cooper, Carly Kitchen and Jessicah Moore (Wasw.)

Hello to my uncle Roderick R. in Montreal. Sorry I missed you during your stay in Nemaska. Hope to see you soon, you party animal!! From your neice Sarah.

500-MISC.

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Engineering Explorations '95 at Concordia University is accepting applications for summer science and engineering day camp for Aboriginal high school students. Date: June 26-30. Deadline for applications: June 13. Send application to: Engineering Explorations, 1455 de Maisonneuve, Room LB-1001, Montreal, Qc. H3G 1M8, or fax: (514) 848-4509. For info call Eniko at (514) 848-7847.

The Nation welcomes your letters to the editor. Letters should be signed by the writer with a phone number. Libelous letters will not be accepted or will be edited. Letters printed are not necessarily the opinion of *The Nation*.

LETTER

Destroying rivers is not development

Letter to *The Nation*:

ROBERT, ROBERT, ROBERT.

First of all I would like to say that I'm ashamed that we once had you as a leader.

All Cree people know that damming rivers is not the solution. It is only a solution to shortening the life of our mother. The Creator took millions, millions and millions of years to create this beautiful planet we all live on. While it takes the greedy, selfish, destructive, money-crazed businessmen a few hundred years to destroy it.

You talk about jobs, "all they want is the jobs to come to them." Not once did I see Kepa Transport posting up job opportunities in the communities. You, the president of a number of companies, "the active person," you sure don't seem to be making things happen for your people as far as I can see. I don't see you out there trying to encourage our people to work for your company or even encourage them to work and live in the south. To me it looks like all you want is to encourage people to agree with Hydro so they can build the road to Whapmagoostui so you can get richer.

You also mention about "extreme hardships." Well I got news for you. The reason for this was because of overharvesting of animals for the greedy businessmen, goods and money. Right away when the traders arrived the balance of nature was thrown off, and all for what? Yes, you guessed right. All for goods and money.

The "Active People" are the people who find environmentally safe solutions. These people and solutions are what will keep.

You also say that "the only way jobs are coming is from development." I agree but it has to be environment safe development. I don't call destroying rivers development. If they can put a man on the moon, I'm sure they can find solutions for environment safe development.

You also say that your children don't take out their children. Are you telling us that your son (who I know pretty well) doesn't take out his children to learn the ways of our ancestors? It's a real shame.

I don't know if this will change your way of thinking or the way you are. But one thing for sure, there are very few who think like you.

Also I would like to let you know that you hurt, insulted and angered a lot of people. And I think you should apologize to the people especially those in Whapmagoostui. Even better yet maybe you should step down because what you said is a danger and an insult to our land and our people.

As for the people in Whapmagoostui, Hooray and Congratulations for a fight well fought and keep on hunting and enjoying your beautiful land and river. You're all so lucky!! Also, a big hand to the Grand Council for playing a major role in the fight.

Thank you for your time.

Roger Orr

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AIR CREEBEC

We take this opportunity to extend congratulations to Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, the 1995 recipient of the National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Environment and Public Services.

From
Chief William Mianscum,
Council, Staff, Elders and Members of

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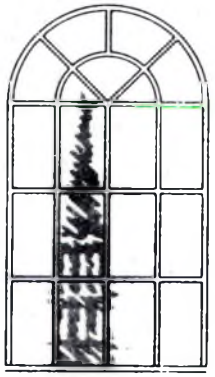

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The Wildlife Museum - April 10 to 15 (free tours!)

Student Graduate Show - April 15 to 26
Salon des Artisans - April 21 to 23
Ethnic Displays - April 28 & 29
Art Exhibitions begin May 4 through June 11

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: 514.939.3663